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THE
MISERABLE EFFECTS
OF

GRASPING at RICHES

By any UNLAWFUL or UNSEEMLY Methods;

EXEMPLIFIED

In the melancholy and remarkable Instance
of *Anxiety* and *Distress*, at *this Time* la-
boured under by some Persons who once
seemed by Nature formed for, and might
have otherwise enjoyed, every Delight
this Earth affords.

WITH

A Word of Advice to the interesting Parties, in
Relation to their future Conduct,

In Three LETTERS,

Taken from the GENERAL EVENING POST of
October 3, 31, and November 12, 1747.

*At lowest Ebb of Fortune when you lay
Contented, then how happy was the Day!
But Oh! the Curse of aiming to be great!
Dazzled with Hope we cannot see the Cheat.
When wild Ambition in the Heart we find,
Farewell Content and Quiet of the Mind:
For glittering Clouds we leave the solid Shore,
And wonted Happiness returns no more.*

— Har. Juv.

L O N D O N:

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THE

PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS

OF

GRASPING A RICHES

By the author of "The Wealth of Nations"

REVISED

In this work, the author has endeavored to show the physiological effects of the acquisition of wealth, and the influence of the same on the human mind and body. It is a work of great interest and value, and one which every student of the subject should read.

WITH

A NEW INTRODUCTION BY THE AUTHOR

IN TWO VOLUMES

THE FIRST VOLUME OF THE GRASPING A RICHES

CONTAINS THE FIRST PART OF THE WORK

The first part of the work is devoted to a description of the physiological effects of the acquisition of wealth, and the influence of the same on the human mind and body. It is a work of great interest and value, and one which every student of the subject should read.

THE SECOND VOLUME OF THE GRASPING A RICHES

CONTAINS THE SECOND PART OF THE WORK



TO THE
R E A D E R.

WITH A
Word of **ADVICE** to the
INTERESTING PARTIES.



THE following Pages owe their Rise to a complicated Scene of Art and Treachery which has been transacted, and lately discovered, in Families of some Distinction in this Kingdom; being an Event very singular and remarkable in its Nature, attended with many unhappy Circumstances, and no Way unworthy the Concern and Attention of the Publick; as the Story is founded on Truth, and unartfully related in Letters which passed between the interested Parties — — To whom however, for the future, we cannot help recommending Silence, as the better and surer Method of obtaining the small Share of Repose and Tranquility of Mind that can be allotted to Persons under such Circumstances: Their
present

To the READER.

present Proceedings tend only to aggravate the Affair, irritate them against each other, and perhaps lay the Foundation of still more direful Events.

Mr. L---'s Affections for Miss S--- are doubtless *very great*, his Intentions may be to redress her Injuries, and to espouse the Cause of an injured Woman is certainly a very laudable Undertaking; but whether his Attempts thereto may not occasion the laying open some Failings of a tender Nature, and be attended with very many ill Consequences, ought to be timely considered.

And as to Mr. C---, his Anguish of Mind (which must be very great, if a Man of the least Reflection) cannot fail of being heightened by the Discovery of such Things as may still more perplex the Parties injured, and therefore much fitter to remain in Oblivion. --- Rather let them join in the following Resolve.

*Ab! to what Purpose should I speak!
No! Wretched Heart swell till you break.--
E'en to the Grave thy Sorrows bear
As silent as they will be there,*

The Story is as follows.

EX



EXTRACT

FROM THE

GENERAL EVENING POST,

Of *October 3, 1747.*

S I R,



R. C——, a young Gentleman of some Fortune in the West of this Kingdom, having settled his Affections on a young Lady, (whose Name is S——) and meeting with a mutual Return, could

not be easy 'till Hymen had tied the endearing Knot, and the Church had made them each other's. But for fear of disoblighing a rich Relation, on whom he had great Dependance, the Affair was managed with all the Privacy imaginable, and so remained a Secret to every Body but the Parties concerned. After a considerable Time spent in the Enjoyment of the Sweets of a gratified Passion, endeared by stolen

B

Joys,

' Joys, a Lady of a large Fortune unluckily fall-
 ' ing in their Company, and thinking Mr. C—
 ' single and disengaged, seem'd to give him
 ' some Encouragement to believe she would not
 ' be averse to unite her Destiny to his. C—,
 ' flattered with the Hopes of so advantageous a
 ' Match, mention'd the Affair to his Wife, and
 ' representing the Affluence in which they might
 ' live by the Help of his second Marriage, she
 ' came readily into his base Design, and consent-
 ' ed to his betraying the innocent Virgin into an
 ' Engagement which they knew must be invalid
 ' both before God and Man. To compleat the
 ' Treachery, Miss S— (for so I shall still call
 ' her) having insinuated herself into the new Mrs.
 ' C—'s Friendship, was invited to live with
 ' her as a Friend and Companion, and had there-
 ' by an Opportunity of sharing in her Husband,
 ' and all the other Advantages he had flattered
 ' her with from a Compliance and Accession to
 ' his Bigamy. Thus they lived undiscovered long
 ' enough to suffer two harmless Babes, which
 ' C— had by his second Wife, to be one
 ' Day Sharers of the undeserved Shame and
 ' Disgrace, which Time and the Discovery would
 ' inevitably cast on the innocent Adultress and
 ' Mother. This Event was near at Hand. Mr.
 ' L—, a Gentleman of a considerable Estate, as
 ' much deceived in Miss S—'s Situation as the se-
 ' cond Lady had been in Mr. C—'s, and be-
 ' lieving her at her own Disposal, made his Ad-
 ' dresses and expressed the most honourable Inten-
 ' tions towards her, which she countenancing,
 ' the Match was so far advanced as to be come
 ' to a Contract and Settlement and other previ-
 ' ous Dispositions, when the jealous C—, fired
 ' with the Thoughts of losing one of his Wives,
 ' resolved

' resolved to go any Lengths rather than suffer
 ' them to proceed on that Footing. Accord-
 ' ingly he insinuated in Mr. L— Suspitions inju-
 ' rious to the Honour of his intended Spouse, and
 ' upon his attempting to vindicate her character
 ' and challenging C— Sword in Hand to make
 ' good his scandalous Reflections, he had the
 ' Impudence to boast to him of the Favours he
 ' himself had received from the Lady; but with-
 ' out mentioning a Word of his Marriage. L—,
 ' big with the stinging Secret, could not help up-
 ' braiding Miss S— with what he had heard;
 ' upon which, losing all Patience at C—'s unpa-
 ' rallel'd Audaciousness, she published their near
 ' Relation to one another, and the whole Secret
 ' of their prior Engagement. The Surprize and
 ' Astonishment of the deluded Mrs. C— at the
 ' News can be sooner imagined than expressed.
 ' The Shame attending her melancholy Circum-
 ' stances, the most violent conjugal Love she
 ' bore to a Betrayer, whom she can no longer
 ' call Husband, and the cruel Reflections of ha-
 ' ving so long cherished in her Bosom one that
 ' was not only her Rival but an Accessary to her
 ' Undoing, together with a Mother's Tender-
 ' ness for the dear Fruits of so unhappy a Match,
 ' which, tho' born in Wedlock, are exposed to
 ' the undeserved Infamy of a spurious Issue, al-
 ' most distract her. How far the Laws, or the
 ' highest Authority in the Land, can redress her,
 ' or provide for the innocent Babes (who are not
 ' entitled to the Reversion of her Estate) I can-
 ' not tell; but sure so much Distress and uncom-
 ' mon Affliction deserves the Pity and Concern
 ' of all that have the least Share of Humanity.'

you in which I shall introduce
 of our youth. **B** 2 ; **T** 2

To T— C—, Esq; at P—k—y,
near M—sb—y, W—sh—c.

S I R,

AT my Request Mr. S— told you by Letter, that in a Month or six Weeks you should hear from me in the publick Papers; your Answer treated this Message as a Threat only, not designed to be put in Execution, at the same Time declaring your Intention of addressing him in the same publick Manner, unless he desired the contrary; There was no Time for your Address expressly limited I confess, yet there was a limited Time implied by this Expression of yours; 'My Letter is in the Hands of a secret and honest Printer, neither can it be printed in less Time than a Fortnight, nor shall it ever be published if you desire the contrary.' Mr. S—, so far from wishing your Silence, earnestly requested you to put your Threat in Execution. Several Weeks have since passed; why have you not published?

It must surprize our Friends, that you and I have taken every Opportunity of speaking against each other in the most virulent Manner; would not this be a reasonable Question for any one to ask, Mr. C— and Mr. Lee are very little acquainted with, and have seldom seen each other; what can possibly make them such bitter Enemies? One or both must be notoriously blameable. In my own Breast I know myself innocent; but to the World perhaps I am not so perfectly clear; that I may be as amply so to all as I am to myself, is the whole Purport of this Letter to you, in which I shall introduce other Matters as sparingly as possible; never, unless they are so con-

connected with my own that I am forced to mention them. I must here make an Apology to Mr. S—'s Family, and to yourself. I shall have frequent Occasion to speak of his younger Sister, and your much too near Relation; I desire you will both permit me to use that Name she is most generally known by in the World, else the Publick will be as much confounded as your own Family, and as frequently at a Loss to know which Wife I am speaking of.

My Acquaintance with you began about the Year 1737, at which Time I visited your Grandmother, intending Proposals of Marriage to Miss S—. My Design was publick, the Lady, her Grandmother, and yourself all knew it. I soon found, by her uncommon Shyness, that my Proposals would be rejected, yet continued my Visits, till your Grandmother by direct Rudeness obliged me to desist; I then concluded you both engaged, and with the Consent of Friends, but determined to live single 'till your Fortune by your Father's Death was enlarg'd. The first Part of my Suspicion was true, you were then engaged; the latter false, it was not by Consent; and how to make any reasonable Excuse for your Grandmother's Behaviour is out of my Power. Mr. S—, the Father, was very anxious for his Daughter *Betty's* Happiness, and frequently wrote to his Mother C—, earnestly desiring her to take peculiar Care of that Daughter whom he had left entirely to her Management. What would a Father have thought a reasonable Excuse for her Behaviour in this Case? In Point of Interest I was much her superior; if an Equality of Merit was thought requisite, it would hardly have been found in any Man; the latter, Parents too seldom consider; the former too often;

ten: This could be no Objection. At that Time I envied your Happiness indeed, but no more attempted to disturb it; I wished you had chose any other Woman, yet wished you happy with her: It was the Fault of neither that we loved the same. Here you interfered with my Happiness, yet I persecuted you not. I might by an Application to the Father perhaps have succeeded; I did not apply, because I should in the same Situation have thought it ungenerous in you. Thus far, Sir, you appeared to me an honest Man: 'Till this Time I ever spoke of you as a Man of whose Understanding and Integrity I had the highest Opinion. The Intimacy between Miss S— and the Female Part of my own Family still subsisted. About a Year before your leaving *Sidbury*, I came to my Mother, who was then on a Visit to Mrs. C—; during this Visit my Behaviour to Miss S—, was as to your betrothed Wife. In 1740, you all went to *P--k--y*; now I began to suspect your Honesty, hearing you paid your Addresses to other Women, which I strongly believed you could not consistent with Honour do; my Love still remain'd. These Reports made me doubt your Engagement, and determined me to renew my Addresses when Opportunity offered. In 1742, this Opportunity presented itself; Miss S— coming to Town I paid her a Visit immediately, and a fortunate Visit it has since very luckily turn'd out; I found her reserved as usual, and on your soon after arriving in Town knew the Reason. I yet believed you a just Man, excepting your frequent Courtships of other Women; your Engagements were now made more solemn, to use your own Expression, 'The most sacred and solemn that People can enter into'. When
after

after this I heard of any Proposals you offered or received, I entirely disbelieved them; your Marriage with Miss *W*—— indeed astonished me: It had never happened had I known of the Courtship. In my Opinion, I censured you deeply for this, yet never abused you; you cannot say this of me, your foolish and ridiculous Stories of me to Lord *D*—— would contradict you; I will neither call you a Knave for telling, nor him a Fool for believing, these Stories; but such idle Lies were no more Proofs of your Honesty, than Credulity of his Wisdom. Mr. *G*——, your Friend and Neighbour, proposed a Match to you, yet (more cautious than Mrs. *W*——, or *her Friends*, though it was not a Daughter he proposed) strictly enquired whether you were not under Engagements to your Cousin *S*——, whose ill Health he feared proceeded from your Behaviour. You assured him solemnly there was no Engagement between you, but that her ill Health proceeded from a Disappointment she met with in *Sbropshire*, from a young Fellow who had strongly engaged her Affections, but the Match being disliked by your Grandmother and yourself, she never got over it. Here you began your Attack upon me. From this Time I have ever defended myself, yet did not begin the offending Part; I should never have complained of any Injury offered me in your Engagements with Miss *S*——; had you behaved honestly, I could not have done it with Justice; but as you have acted, you have even in that injured me deeply, like the surly Dog in the Manger; you know the Fable. The same Year Mrs. *C*—— and Miss *S*—— returned to *Sidbury*, I came to live at *Coton*; I wanted much to pay the latter a Visit, but chose it should be an accidental one. In *July 1745*, returning from
Leicester-

Leicesterhire, I overtook her going to her Grandmother, then in great Danger by a Stroke of the Palsy. Coming home, I sent to enquire after Mrs. C——'s Health, but paid no Visit, 'till *February* following I came by your own Appointment on Business; it was a very indifferent Afternoon, and on Miss S——'s Invitation, directly contrary to your hospitable Command, I staid all Night, designing to leave you in the Morning, but the Badness of the Weather, agreeable to my own Inclination, kept me two or three Days, in which Time you left the Country; your Behaviour was morose and surly; such was natural to you, therefore it surprized me not. The Renewal of my Acquaintance with Miss S——, renew'd my Affection; this you saw and afterwards wrote about to her. You were absent from *Sidbury* near six Months, in which Time the Intimacy between our Families increased much. I never thought of Marriage as a Contract of Interest, but Love, therefore disregarded the Smallness of Miss S——'s Fortune, and determined to engage her, yet not soon, 'till from herself I heard the Particulars of your Behaviour. About the Month of *April* she was seized with the Measles, and really lay in great Danger. My extreme Anxiety would permit me no longer to conceal my Affection; all saw it plainly. I told her my Design, she seem'd greatly concern'd, and spoke with much good Nature of my constant Attachment so many Years, but added, Mr. C—— is a most egregious Villain, he has abused me monstrously; I am infinitely obliged to you, but it is not in my Power to marry while that Villain lives. You have a Heart not capable of Love, else I would ask what your own Behaviour would have been on such a Declaration:
This

This is a publick Letter ; I appeal to the Breast of every honest Man, let such condemn or acquit me. Thus, Sir, I acted ; I advised her as soon as she recovered to correspond with you, and keep all your Letters, which at a proper Season would be of great Service to her, and to make you suspect by all but an absolute Declaration that she had a Regard for me. In *July*, before her Health was quite established, you came to *Sidbury* ; you charged her with receiving my Addresses, which she faintly denied. Dissatisfy'd, you endeavoured to break our Acquaintance, by irritating Mr. S—— against me, not by trifling Circumstances, but villainous Defamation, representing me as inhuman and dishonest ; Folly you had a Right to charge me with ; I pass it over. You knew Mr. S—— was a rigid Whig, bitterly averse to those Principles favoured by the Opposition ; you expressly told him I was a Jacobite, a Title you were sure would make me odious in his Eyes. I have taken no Pains to prove that any thing you have said is a Lye ; my Actions speak stronger than Words. You both came over to *Coton*, with a Design of roasting, I will not say affronting me, though your Behaviour at that time would justify the Word. Dinner over and a Health or two gone round, you, without being called upon, drank the King, so did I ; you immediately proposed the Duke, I drank the same ; you acted prudently, knowing I could not resent this, if I had desired it ; I did not, I saw your Design and laugh'd at you. The Topick then was the Duty of Marriage, introduced by me on Purpose, which you ended with an ill-judged, and (to yourself) severe Ridicule on our Saviour, for not performing that Duty, which you said was better executed by St.

Paul, who, though not married, yet kept Mistresses. Could your Spleen keep no Bounds? I spoke not Evil of your King, yet you reviled my God. On your return Home you gave Miss *S*—— express Orders to go over to my House and directly tell me she meant not to be my Wife, for that you intended parting with Miss *W*——, and publickly owning the Injuries you had done her, which was all the Reparation you now could make. She came; I told her your Behaviour, and cautioned her much against you; I never saw a Woman more afflicted; all she said to me was this; Mr. *Lee*, when ill, I told you Mr. *C*—— had abused me villainously, and that I could not marry till his Death; what the Particulars of his Ill-Usage are I cannot tell you; he has promised within a Month to own all publickly, and intends leaving the Country soon, in order to finish his Affairs at *P--k-y*: Excuse my being secret; if within that Time he performs not his Promise, I will myself disclose the Whole. After this, 'till the Expiration of the Time, I enquired no farther. While you staid she came over frequently; once particularly in great Distress, I was very uneasy and ask'd the Cause; she was frighted least on any Occasion you and I should meet. Why do you fear that? Because Mr. *C*—— swore to me that he would seek all Occasions of quarrelling with you; I calm'd her Uneasiness by an Assurance that nothing of that Sort should happen, but by direct Compulsion from you. You have frequently said the same to Mr. *S*——; you wanted only a favourable Opportunity of quarrelling with *Lee*, for you hated him; you said you knew him to be a timorous Man. Was this a Threat only, or did you really intend to execute it upon this timorous Man?

If

If you did, Why have you omitted it? Were Opportunities wanting? If so, I will remedy that Inconvenience; do Miss S—— Justice, then call me to a personal Account, and I will answer you in any Method as desperate as your Revenge can propose. In *July* you left the Country; *August* following Mr. S—— paid you a Visit, you took him from *Sidbury* lest his Sister in her Distress might complain to him. She was now almost constantly with my Sisters, yet 'till the Time expired I made no Enquiry; then she told me the Particulars of your Behaviour. I was astonished indeed. By my Advice she continued her Correspondence with you, under Pretence of listening to my Addresses, and by that Means gained those Letters which will at a proper Season stand her in great Stead. 'Till this Time, Sir, I never publicly spoke ill of you, since have ever done it; that your Character is bad blame yourself, not me, who but represent Things as they are. In your Letters to Miss S——, you abuse me. These are your own Censures, because I came not to *Sidbury* while you staid: ' His Generosity has ' been at *Sidbury* since I went, by Way of generously telling the World 'tis only me keeps him ' away.' In another Place, ' Good God, how ' thy Judgment is perverted, to think that in ' one Man Generosity, which was absolutely the ' most ungenerous Behaviour possible, and occasioned through Fear and Cowardice; and what ' in me was the utmost Generosity and Heroism, ' Baseness, &c. — If I did behave foolishly ' at *Coton*, that could only affect the People ' there, of whose good Opinion I dare say you ' think yourself certain. My Behaviour was nothing more than is common, and I am sure I

‘ have seen such twenty Times since, for I cannot live out of Company.’

Notwithstanding your infamous Behaviour to me, I yet did not persecute you, but by saying in general you were an extreme wicked Man. There never was a Moment of my Life wherein I would not gladly have married Miss S——; there is nothing in this Life for which I now wish so earnestly. Would to God it could be: ‘Till it can I must wait, I cannot say with Patience, for the Improbability makes me exquisitely unhappy. On this Account had you complied with her Request in giving her such a Release as would ever after have prevented your disturbing her, she would, for the Sake of the other unhappy injured Woman, and at my Request, have been silent. Had you done this, I would have engaged her, and waited ‘till your Death. This you refused, nay, threatened to claim her as your Wife, being deceived in thinking her on the Point of Marriage with me. In *October* I went to Town, staid a Week, got all Proofs necessary, and returned. From *September* to *March* you might, by a simple Release, at any Time have stopt my Proceedings. At that Time I came to Town, as did Miss S—— soon after: You were there already. Still you remained obstinate, rather irresolute. I did not yet make the Matter publick, only told it to your very good Friend Lord D——. At this Time a bare Release would not have been a sufficient Redress, therefore I proposed your own Terms, which I knew to be your own; first, because Miss S—— told me they were; next, you by Letter declared them to be so; and, as the strongest Confirmation, in the Presence of Miss S——, Mr. F. S——, and myself, you acknowledged them

to

to be your own. Yet you refused this too, and desired a Meeting between us two only, couch'd in such dubious Terms to be understood as a Desire of treating, or a Proof of that great Heroism you so often boast of. Do you remember my Question in Answer to this? Mr. C——, you and I should be very clear in our Expressions. On what Account do you ask to meet me alone? If really to settle Affairs, you know our Terms; we will comply with no other. If you ask it on any other Account, speak it freely. No Civilities will ever pass between us; by G— none shall ever pass from me to you, and I suppose as few from you to me. — After more Conversation we parted. In one of your Letters sent in Town by Mr. F. S—— to his Sister, was this Expression, 'Quit the Villain *Lee*.' Matters seemed in no Likelihood of being accommodated. In May I brought you my own Letter, positively declaring I would write to Mrs. W——. In your Answer was this Paragraph. 'I declared that Day, ever since, and do now, that when I last dined with you at *Goton*, I meant not to affront you; but as you have in this whole Affair, without Cause, Reason, or Advantage to your self in any Shape or Manner, scandalously attempted my Ruin, &c.' You may deny what you will; that Denial will indeed prove you *ought* not to have acted so, not that you *did* not. Mr. S—— acknowledged to me your Visit was on that Account, nay your Behaviour in general settled before you came. You say, that without Reason or Advantage, &c. I have earnestly endeavoured, and will still endeavour, to redress Miss S——'s Injuries. Your former Actions have made those Endeavours detrimental to you; else

else the Assistance I give her would no more hurt you than the Queen of *Spain*.

All was now publick, and every Thing ready for carrying on a Prosecution against you, which was designed, being begun before Mr. S—— left Town. For this Reason I wrote to Mrs. W——, yet put it in your Power to prevent my writing, which you might have done by making proper Satisfaction. My Regard for the two injured Women induced me to make you acquainted with my Design: This Design I executed, by sending an Express to *Bibury*. In that Letter I have directly called you Villain; such I then thought you, and every Day has more strongly confirmed that Opinion of mine to be just and true. I never speak of you to any but as the worst of Men; if I speak falsely, acquit yourself as publickly as I accuse you; if you do not, none will believe any Calumny you cast upon me but Knaves and Fools: The bad Opinion of such is Praise, not Condemnation.

You have frequently declared, that but for me Miss S—— would have seen you. I assure you most solemnly I never prevented her; nay, at her Request would at any Time have made the Appointment myself. When the two Brothers quitted *London*, you immediately came. We dined that Day at Mr. F. S——'s; to him you wrote a foolish insolent Letter, which affected Stile could not yet hide your Distress. F——'s Right Arm was so bad he could not write, therefore I answered your Letter. The next Morning you sent your Attorney to Miss S—— to make a new Proposal, as he called it. She sent for me: I heard with as much Patience as Contempt your new Scheme. He said his Orders from you were, to tell Madam C—— (so
by

by your Direction he called Miss S——) that you had settled all Affairs with Mrs. and Miss W——; that you would part with the latter, and publickly own her; but begg'd she would see you, and do all this amicably. After much Conversation of this Kind, not necessary to be repeated here, we dismissed him. Every Thing I said of you to him was true; what I said was as bad as could be said of Man. In the Afternoon this honest Attorney came again. We were at F——'s Lodgings. He came on the same new Scheme. After having talked a great deal, and finding it treated with Laughter only, he was piqued, and warmly, not wisely said, applying to me, Well Sir, so you are determined to prosecute Mr. C—— for Bigamy; you cannot hurt him so deeply as you imagined; he will be tried, perhaps convicted, but the Punishment is trifling, and the Consequence will be, Madam C—— must live with him; for you, Madam, you must not be surprized if To-morrow I come in Mr. C——'s Name to claim you as his Wife. I love to find out, if possible, the Design of every Man's Behaviour: I told him I thought Bigamy was a monstrous Crime, and should esteem the Punishment inflicted by the Law in that Case as a glaring Mark of Infamy. He laughed, and said it was trifling; besides, that a Man could not easily be convicted; for he had once himself defended a Man that had seven Wives. I thought in Truth, that you had pitched upon a very proper Man for your Purpose. Our Conversation was interrupted by your sending for him. Hearing you were so near, I concluded you would attempt seeing us. To prevent it, we told Wits, if you came we would treat you
as

as you deserved, by turning you out of the House contemptibly.

From this Time I heard not of you 'till my Arrival in the Country. Soon after, on your coming to *Sidbury*, you sent *Tho. Child* over to Miss *S—* at *Bridgnorth*, with the following Order: ' To my Grandaughter *E. S—*. I ' desire you will deliver to my Grandson *C—*, ' or his Order, the Book wherein my Tenants ' Accounts are kept, and what Money you have ' of mine in your Hands. *M. C.* Your own Order endorsed, ' To Mrs. *E. S—*. * I or- ' der you to deliver up to the Bearer, *T. Child*, all ' my Grandmother's Books of Accounts, and ' should be obliged to you if you would likewise ' deliver to him my Accounts of the Timber, ' &c. that I may settle Accounts with him. ' Yours, *T. E. C.* I was at *White's*, and received the Message; told him he should not see Mrs. *E. S—*, nor should she see the Order; neither should any Accounts be delivered. I wrote this Answer to you; ' When you have ' Honesty sufficient, and your Grandmother Sense ' enough, to write a proper Order, the Ac- ' counts may perhaps be given up, not by Miss ' *S—*, but your villainously abused Wife. ' *Tho. Child* shall not speak with her about this, ' or any other Affair, nor will I let her see this,

* Here you send your Order to Mrs. *E. S—*; if she is really so, why did you send Mr. *Witts* in *London* threatening to demand her as your Wife. Either she is Miss *S—*, or Mrs. *C—*; if the latter, no Order to Miss *S—* is good; if the former, why did you direct Mr. *Witts* as he acted. To treat her as both must be highly injurious to her; yet you have continually acted so.

or tell her the Contents. I fancy the $\dagger$ Demons have taken Possession of you again. *L. Lee*. The remaining Part of my Message I suppose *Child* delivered; he has since told me he did. You wrote not again to me, though you told him you would. You wrote to Mr. S——; he immediately answered you. His last Answer to your's of the 24th of *September* is so full, that I shall repeat nothing you have said, but what directly concerns me. These are your Words: 'Am I to expect Truth from *Lee*, whose Letter to my Mother *W*—— is almost one continued Lye.' Again, 'But the Don Quixote *Lee*, who has captivated the Hearts and enslaved the Understandings of your whole Family, would not permit it, that he might appear the Hero of a most trifling Novel.'

If my Letters to Mrs. *W*—— is one continued Lye almost, how foolishly have I acted, in putting myself so absolutely into your Power? and how monstrously wicked, in disturbing the Peace of Mrs. *W*——'s Family? If I have spoken falsely, convince the World publicly that I have done so; the Law will punish swingingly if that is the Case. You know I have spoke Truth, but at the same Time know, that to confess this would be confessing yourself what you are; I do not wonder you avoid that. You stile me Don Quixote; if you would that your Ridicule should wound deep, let it be just. I have endeavoured to relieve the Oppressed, a Woman too, that on Account of her Sex has infinitely greater Need of Assistance.

$\dagger$ Alluding to a Letter, wherein he complains of being possessed by the Devil, and gives an Account of a Vision he saw one Day after Dinner at Mr. *Kier's*.

What has your Generosity and Heroism effected? Deceived a most deserving, good Woman, in the most base and scandalous Manner! Even at this Time you endeavour to lessen your Infamy, by reviling her; you have declared frequently, that she was your Mistress; that, to calm her Conscience, you afterwards married her, and then with her Consent married your present Wife: Every Tittle of which, except that she is your first Wife, is most notoriously false; and so I will prove it to be.

Thus, if you are believed, Miss S——'s Character must appear infamous: You charge her with consenting to your Marriage with Miss W——, whom, by such Consent, she must injure most vilely. She is condemned too for deceiving me, in permitting my Addresses with an Intention of concealing her Situation, that so she might marry me. I do not wonder that any Man, believing these Accusations true, abhors her. Such Schemes must make the Character of a Woman detestable. But if these Things are not in any Degree true, only the first Part cast upon her by you to ease yourself of a grievous Load, and the other the Consequence of that Calumny, what Return can be made her for such bitter Sufferings? Misery and Infamy undeservedly laboured under, are with Pain supported by the severest of Men: It is more rare to find such a stern Constancy in female Minds, one of whose very Perfections is Softness, directly contrary to this Severity. Miss S—— never deceived me in any the minutest Instance, but acted as I have before mentioned in this Letter. I never knew so scrupulous an Observer of Truth; doubtless there are many, but they have not come within my Knowledge. Your Passion is Avarice; you have exchanged

exchanged that Jewel for Money, to which no Sum is equivalent. If you had ever consulted *Solomon*, who was full as wise a Man as yourself, you would have heard, *Who can find a virtuous Woman, for her Price is above Rubies; she openeth her Mouth with Wisdom, and in her Tongue is the Law of Kindness.* Such a Woman fell to your Lot, whom you have most foolishly thrown away. What you have in Exchange I suppose you thought would make you happier. Perhaps, Sir, your Aspersions may have gained some Credit in your own Family; they may think it their Interest to believe them; there you have all Opportunity of speaking for yourself, but you shall not deceive the World.

I here firmly promise, that so soon as the Affair between you and Miss S—— has been determined in a Court of Law, I will give the Publick an exact and true Account of all your Schemes against her. I have already finished what I now promise to give: My only Reason for not immediately publishing it is, that I must produce many Letters and parole Evidences, which Prudence will not authorize me to do 'till they have appeared in a Court. In this whole Affair you shall find from me the strictest Justice. I had much rather you had never seen Miss S——, than see you suffer as you must do for the Injuries she has sustained. I am sure I suffer deeply; it is not in your Power to redress my Wrongs, having deprived me of a Woman for whom I would resign any Fortune or State the World could load me with. As a Man I would not injure you; as one that has so deeply oppressed the Woman I so much esteem, I detest you; and as a publick Violater of the most social and sacred Laws, my Duty to Mankind obliges me to bring you to Infamy and

Punishment: The first will prevent your doing more Mischief, and the latter is a Debt to Society. Were I disposed to seek your Ruin without any Advantage but an ill-judged and criminal Gratification to my self, I could point out another Woman, whom

 ***** I do not mention this through Ill-Nature to expose the Woman, only to shew that you suffer through Justice, not Revenge.

However you are pleased with your own Strength, and rely on the Weakness of your Adversary, because she is a Woman, you will most certainly be deceived. *If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not, doth not he that ponders the Heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy Soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every Man according to his Works?*

Coton, Shropshire,

Oct. 17, 1747.

LANCELOT LEE.

P. S. Mr. C—— never shall have any Letter from me unsigned; nor shall I look upon any Thing anonymous as coming from him; such belong to Nobody: They are like Assassins in a dark Night, wounding him they dare not attack in the Light.

To L----- L---, Esq; at C-t-n, in
Shropshire.

S I R,

THE Reasons you give in your Letter to me for publishing it in the *General Evening Post* are, least the World should think you notoriously blameable because we speak against each other in the most virulent Manner, to bring me to Infamy and Punishment, and to prevent my doing any more Mischief: Whether these are the true Ones, and how they will answer the several Ends proposed, Time will best discover.

What first passed between Miss S— and yourself in the year 1737, I knew not; I was in *London*: But this I knew, that you never spoke either to my Grandmother, old Mr. S—, Miss S—, any of her Brothers, or me, that you intended making Proposals of Marriage to Miss S—; then how could we know it; neither could any Rudeness of my Grandmother to you make you conclude, that *Betty S—* and I were engaged with the Consent of Friends: But my Grandmother was not rude to you; had you then desired marrying Miss S—, you would have spoke to somebody, why not to me? if you thought we were engaged by the Consent of Friends, would the Question have been improper? must not I have given you an Answer? In the Year 1740, when you heard I made my Addresses to other Women, you doubted *Betty S—*'s and my being engaged, and was determined to renew your Addresses; how did you behave; did you either write, or visit any one Branch of the Family for two Years?

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I never heard before of your seeing Miss S—— in *London* in the Year 1742, tho' at that Time she, Mr. G. S——, and myself, lived together; neither do I believe he heard of it then. My Courtship of Miss W—— was no Secret at *Bridgnorth*, or any where else; I believe all People that knew me, knew of that; neither do I believe that my marrying of her astonished you, or that it was in your power to prevent it. I never told Lord D— any idle Lies, or foolish and ridiculous Stories of you; neither did Mr. Gore, when he proposed a Match to me, enquire whether I was under any Engagements to my Cousin, nor did he, as I knew of, suspect her ill Health proceeded from my ill Behaviour, nor did I ever tell him that it proceeded from a Disappointment she met with from a young Fellow in *Shropshire*; how you can have the Impudence to say so, is beyond my Comprehension. Did you ever see Mr Gore? To convince you (if possible) of your Falsity, see Mr. Gore's own Account of the Matter signed by himself.*

You still insinuate you wanted to renew your Addresses, yet you remained a Year and half at *Coton* after my Grandmother's Return without ever going to *Sidbury*, tho' my Cousin G. S—— was there most of the Time; and as he came into the Country after you, I should have thought Civility might have induced you to have visited a Gentleman that lived within three Miles of you; neither had you then come, but to beg a Favour of me, which I granted you. That your Stay there, or

* Had I thought Mr. *Creswell* was under any Engagements to his Cousin, I should not have proposed any Match to him. I never saw Mr. L— to my Knowledge, or had any such Conversation with Mr. *Creswell* as he relates; and much wonder at his printing such a Falseness.

T. Gore.

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any where else, from *Coton*, where you could have met with Company and Entertainment, was agreeable to your Inclination I doubt not; therefore you chose in the midst of Winter, thro' Roads not made for and seldom used with Wheels, to come in a Chaise, to render your going Home that Night impracticable, tho' you knew we had no Bed, designing to lay at *Thomas Child's* as you told me; which you had done had not your Sister left you her Bed, and laid in one of the Servant's, which neither I or Miss S—— should have had Hospitality enough to have asked of her. This Renewal of Acquaintance, *February 1745*, renewed your Affection, did it? Yet you before said in the Year 1740. you doubted our being engaged, and was determined to renew your Adresses. Do you expect I should believe you? Miss S——, when she had the Meazles, on your telling her you designed marrying of her, said I was an egregious Villain, and had abused her monstrously; and you, like an *honest* Man, advised her to correspond with me (as if she was going to marry you, and to keep all my Letters. When I came to *Sidbury* she came to me as soon as she could, notwithstanding your Endeavours to prevent it, and told me no more of your Courtship than she had before done by Letter; tho' Mr. S—— did, for we had freely discoursed on the Subject before she came home; and as you had never spoke to him or to his Sister about Marriage, as she had assured him, he liked not the Manner it was carried on in, your kissing and toying with her before all sorts of Company, being alone with her in her Bedchamber Hours every Day, nay even when she was in Bed, and her returning you Visit for Visit even without him, &c. I
appeal

appeal to him for the Truth of this, and farther say, he told me he hated you, and disliked all Thoughts of the Match, because you was a * *Jacobite*, and for some Sights he fancied you had put upon him. I told him he was not to marry you; if his Sister liked you, 'twas enough; that in point of Fortune you was a great Match for her, and he ought to promote it; but if she did not like you, I should advise her to break off directly; which afterwards, on her assuring me in the most positive Manner that she did not, I did, and she accordingly did break off; for the Truth of which I appeal to her, as I do likewise to both of them, that she declared in a very grave Manner that you had never proposed Marriage to her, which I believe to be true, and if it is so, she said not the Things you relate she did in the Meazles; she had not been long enough acquainted with you to use such Language.

'Tis true that I drank King *George's* Health at your House, but do not remember that I reviled your God (as you express yourself) because he neither married or kept Mistresses.

As to what you relate that passed between you at *Coton*, when she came to you to break off, I believe nothing of it; tho', as I was afraid of being made unhappy thro' your Means, I should have been glad if one of us had been to die, and the Lot to have been determined by any equal Chance. 'Do Miss S—— Justice (you say) and I will answer you in any Method as desperate as your Revenge can propose.'

* I never took you for either *Tory* or *Jacobite*, having whenever we discoursed on Politicks, &c. declared you thought of those Things as I did.

Pray,

Pray, Sir, explain yourself, and let me know what you mean by doing Miss S—— Justice. The Generosity and Heroism mentioned in my Letter was, to the best of my Knowledge, the giving of Miss S—— free Leave to act so as would make her most happy, notwithstanding any Uneasiness it might give me, &c. What Release did she ever desire of me, that I refused? 'Tis true, I refused giving her *Sidbury* Estate to marry you with, that never having been any Terms of mine, neither did I ever before *Fred.* acknowledge them to be so. 'Tis true, I asked to meet you alone, which you refused, lest we should quarrel, saying, 'you are hot, and I am hot, we had better not;' and tho' you did swear, it was that I should be prosecuted. At this Conference, as you stiled it, Miss S—— said before *Fred.* and yourself that she never told you of any Engagement she had with me, but you discovered it, in about eight Weeks after she had agreed to marry you, which you likewise assented to. Pray, Sir, what is the redressing Miss S——'s Injuries to you, any more than to the Queen of *Spain*? baiting your Quixotism? I could not prevent your sending to my Mother W——, but by doing what would have given her more Pain.

It does not concern me whether you prevented Miss S—— seeing me or not. I gave Mr. *Witts* no Orders for acting as you say he did; what you said of me to him, I neither know or care; nor is what passed in Conversation between you of any Consequence to me; I went to him about Business, told him casually that Miss S—— would not see me; he fancied he could prevail with her to do it, desired I would

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let him try, which I did, and told him that he might tell Miss S—— that I could forgive; this was the utmost of my Commission to him. I sent the Order, and received your written Message as you relate it, but no verbal Message; *Child* told me that you said, had I brought it myself you would have kicked my A—. At first I had Thoughts of going immediately to *Bridgnorth*, till I recollected I should bring the S——'s into some Difficulties on account of what they had publickly given out; next I determined to write to you, but was not sure whether I could justify it or not, for Words said behind my Back: But as you have thought proper to own it as a Message to me, I will consider it as such, and demand the Book of you the first Time I come into *Shropshire*. You know your Letter to Mrs. W—— is almost one continued Lye; what Business you had to disturb the Peace of my Mother's Family, I know not. I suppose you are sufficient of yourself, without any Assistance from me, to relieve the Oppressed, else you would not have undertaken it. My Generosity and Heroism have effected nothing not through any Fault of mine: I gave Miss S—— free Leave to marry you, expected she would have done so, and why she did not I can't tell. 'Tis easier to say I will prove a Thing, than to do it; Falsehoods are impossible to be proved; I defy you. You best know whether she deceived you or not; you say she never did: I say she, before you and her Brother *Fred.* told me she had received four Letters* from me after she had agreed to marry you, before you discovered she was under any Engagements to me; that she never told you

* I wrote once a Fortnight.

she was, but you found it out. If she did not say so, let *Fred.* and she deny it; so whether you lye or she lye, I neither know or care; but as you say she is so scrupulous an Observer of Truth, suppose you will take it to yourself. Whether you are a Man or not is of no Consequence to me; you have in my Opinion injured me, and have been the Cause of much Uneasiness to the Woman you pretend to esteem, much more than ever she would have known had she never seen you, nor you pretended to redress her Wrongs.

THO. ESCOURT CRESWELL.

Pinkney,
Nov. 7, 1747.

F I N I S.

